



Root Glacier Trail

Maps: USGS Maps, McCarthy 1:250,000, McCarthy (B-6), (C-6) 1:63,360

Distance: Approximately 3 miles round trip from Kennecott to the glacier or 7 miles round-trip to the Erie Mine tram cables.

Time: 2-6 hours (or longer, if desired)

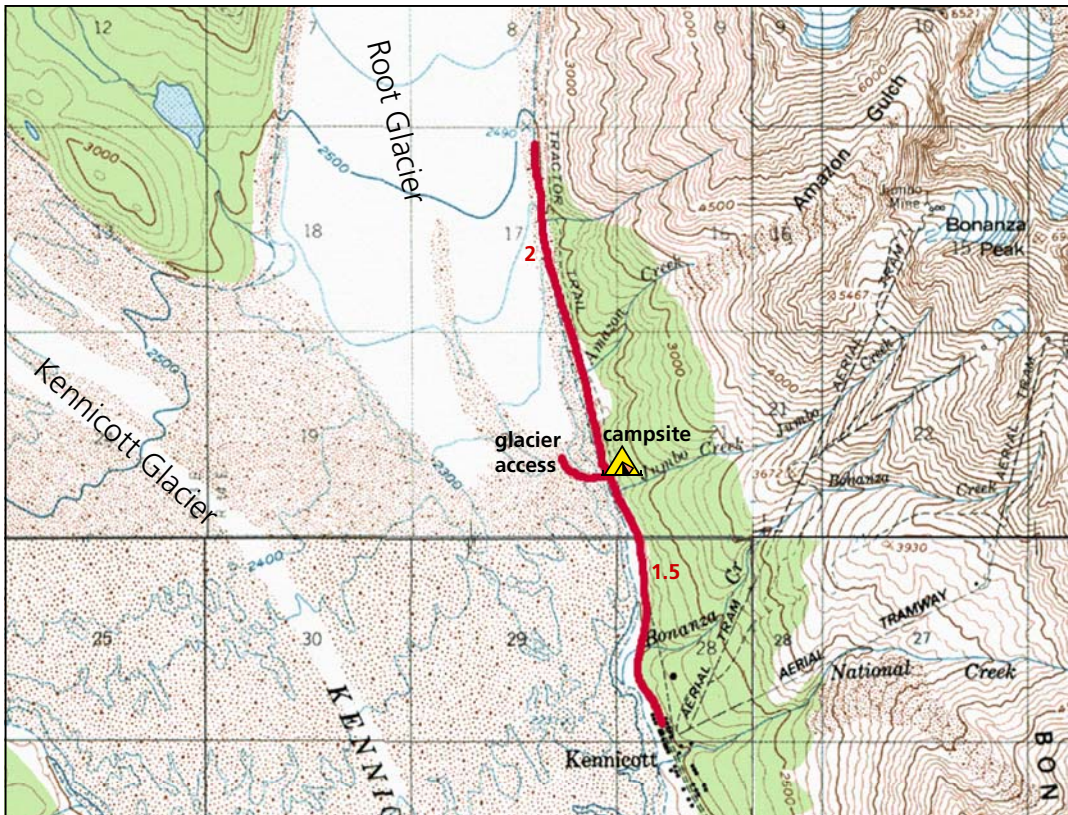
Access: Road access from Chitina via the McCarthy Road. Either walk the road between McCarthy and Kennecott (an extra 4.5 miles), take the commercial shuttle, or ride a bike.

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate.

Highlights: Glacier viewing, scenery, mining history



Note: If you are camping at the Jumbo Creek Camping Area, the Erie Mine tram cables or Donaho Mountain, please ensure that your food is stored in the bear-resistant food boxes. Maps of box locations are available in the Kennecott Visitor Center.





Route:

Walk the road through the Kennecott Mill Town. When the road curves to the right, take the trail leading off to the left and follow as you walk along the lateral moraine of the Kennicott and Root Glaciers. After approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, cross the Bonanza Creek footbridge. After approximately 1 mile, the trail curves sharply to the right and upstream. Here, cross the Jumbo Creek footbridge. After approximately another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, the trail reaches the Root Glacier access trail. Primitive campsites, along with an outhouse and food lockers, are available in this area.

You will see a sign for the Root Glacier where the trail forks:

- To access the glacier, turn left at the sign and follow the trail as it winds down the moraine to the toe of the glacier. If you decide to walk on the glacier, use extreme caution. The ice can be very slippery and dangerous.
- The main trail continues past the turn to the glacier paralleling the glacier for approximately 2 more miles. Where it stops, you will be able to see the Erie Mine bunkhouse high above on the hillside to the right of the trail, the Root Glacier below on the left, and the Stairway Icefall further up valley.

Potential Hazards: Avoid walking along the edge of Root Glacier as rotting ice and swift, cold water are potentially dangerous. Bears are present along the entire route. For maximum safety, travel in groups, be noisy when you are walking, and never give any food to a bear.



Comments:

This is a great day-hike with views of Mt. Blackburn, Regal Mountain, and Donaho Peak. It is also a nice mountain bike trip. The terrain is relatively level with some moderate elevation gain and loss. If a longer hike is desired, follow the trail beyond the camping area, across Amazon Creek, and beyond.